

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

STATE OF MONTANA



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GOVERNOR

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ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION AGENCY

AUG 1 2003

MONTANA OFFICE

July 30, 2003

Les Skramstad
3647 US Highway 2 S.
Libby, MT 59923-9102

Dear Les:

Thank you for sending the information regarding the status of the cleanup efforts in Libby and the letter to Tommy Thompson. I understand there is great need for affordable medical care in Libby; however, the ATSDR is most likely not prepared to offer this service.

The EPA budget for Libby may be less than is requested for the cleanup; even with those reductions, Libby does receive one third of the budget for the whole country. This money will go towards removing asbestos containing vermiculite from attics, leaking walls, living areas, and yards. EPA determined cleaning up asbestos in the walls was not necessary and that the money they have would be better used to do the other elements of cleanup.

Your documents will be added to the Department of Environmental Quality site files. We will also forward copies to the US EPA Regional Project Manager who maintains the administrative record for the site to ensure an adequate record of your request to Mr. Thompson is maintained.

Aside from the two issues you raise, I hope the cleanup is progressing well. I look forward to the day when we can say the cleanup has been completed. Again, thank you for the information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Judy Martz", written over a horizontal line.

JUDY MARTZ
Governor

c: Jan Sensibaugh, Director, DEQ
John Wardell, Director, USEPA Region 8 - Montana Operations Office